United Nations S/2002/1142

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 October 2002
English
Original: French

Letter dated 14 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the joint communiqué concerning the visit to Bujumbura (Burundi) of Léonard She Okitundu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government requests you to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué issued at the close of the visit by Léonard She Okitundu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. At the invitation of Thérence Sinunguruza, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burundi, Léonard She Otikundu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, made a working visit to Bujumbura on 12 and 13 October 2002.

2. The visit was made in the context of the desire expressed by the highest authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of Burundi to consolidate the achievements of the peace process in their respective countries, in view of their interdependence.

3. During the visit, the President of Burundi, Pierre Buyoya, and the Vice-President of Burundi, Domitien Ndayizeye, respectively, granted an audience to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

4. During these audiences, the discussions focused on the situation prevailing in the two countries, their respective concerns with regard to security and the ways and means, in terms of commitments, to normalize relations between the two countries.

5. With regard to the situation prevailing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Burundi, the two delegations welcomed the progress already made in the context of the implementation of the Arusha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and of the ongoing peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

6. With a view to expediting the peace process in the two countries and bearing in mind the long-standing links of culture, consanguinity and friendship between our peoples, the two delegations agreed:

6.1 To work for the restoration of a climate of mutual trust between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi;

6.2 To work together to restore the cordial relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation which have always existed between the two countries, to normalize them and to comply, for that purpose, with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

6.3 To reaffirm their desire to refrain from recourse to the use of force in the event of conflict and to exhaust the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes and of legal claims between States, in particular through mutual agreement;

6.4 To reactivate the machinery for concerted bilateral action and to conclude a separate agreement to define the practical procedures for the implementation of the commitments made on 12 October 2002 in Bujumbura;

6.5 To define and establish an effective machinery for the surveillance and control of their common frontier, including Lake Tanganyika;

6.6 To refrain from offering support and facilities to rebel movements.

7. To that end, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo undertakes:

7.1 To continue its contribution to promoting the involvement of rebel Burundi groups in the process of negotiation of the ceasefire without conditions and within the framework of the Arusha Agreement in accordance with the recent decisions of the Eighteenth Summit Meeting of the Heads of State of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, on 6 and 7 October 2002 (see S/2002/1124).

7.2 To take all measures to ensure that the territory is not used by any group whatsoever as a rear base from which direct or indirect attacks might be launched against Burundi.

8. The Government of Burundi undertakes to conclude the withdrawal of its troops as swiftly as possible.

9. The Government of Burundi undertakes to prohibit the transit and marketing in its territory of material arising from the looting of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

10. The two delegations agreed to conclude as soon as possible a normalization and security cooperation agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. This agreement will be initialled by the ministers responsible for foreign affairs and submitted to the two Heads of State for signature on a date and in a country to be determined.

11. With a view to ensuring the implementation of the agreement that will be signed between the two States, the two delegations agreed to use the offices of a third party in a form to be determined by the two Heads of State.

12. With a view to maintaining a climate of mutual trust between the two States, the two delegations agreed to establish machinery for the exchange of information as soon as possible.

13. At the close of his working visit to Burundi, Léonard She Otikundu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, conveyed to Major Pierre Buyoya, President of Burundi, and to his Government appreciation of the cordial and fraternal welcome accorded to him and to the members of his delegation during their stay in Bujumbura.

DONE at Bujumbura on 12 October 2002

For the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo:
Léonard She Otikundu
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

For the Government of Burundi:
Thérence Sinunguruza
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation